SILVER STAR
ISSUE #2

PC
"For the NEW Era in Comics"

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THE NEXT BREED...

SILVER STAR

A VISUAL NOVEL

HOMO-GENETICUS

MAN MAY DESTROY TO *GAIN* POWER
HIS SUCCESSOR MAY DESTROY BECAUSE *HE'S BORN WITH IT...*

LOOK OUT FOR---
DARIUS DRUMM

KIRBY + THIBODEAUX

MORE THAN A DECADE HAS PASSED SINCE A VERY UNIQUE INCIDENT OCCURRED IN A SMALL CORNER OF THE WAR IN VIET NAM... DURING A FIERCE FIRE FIGHT, A YOUNG INFANTRY-MAN PICKED UP A 40 TON ENEMY TANK WITH ONE BARE HAND AND THREW THE STEEL MONSTER AT ITS FELLOW BEHEMOTHS!

HIS NAME IS
MORGAN MILLER!
BUT HE EARNED THE NAME OF --

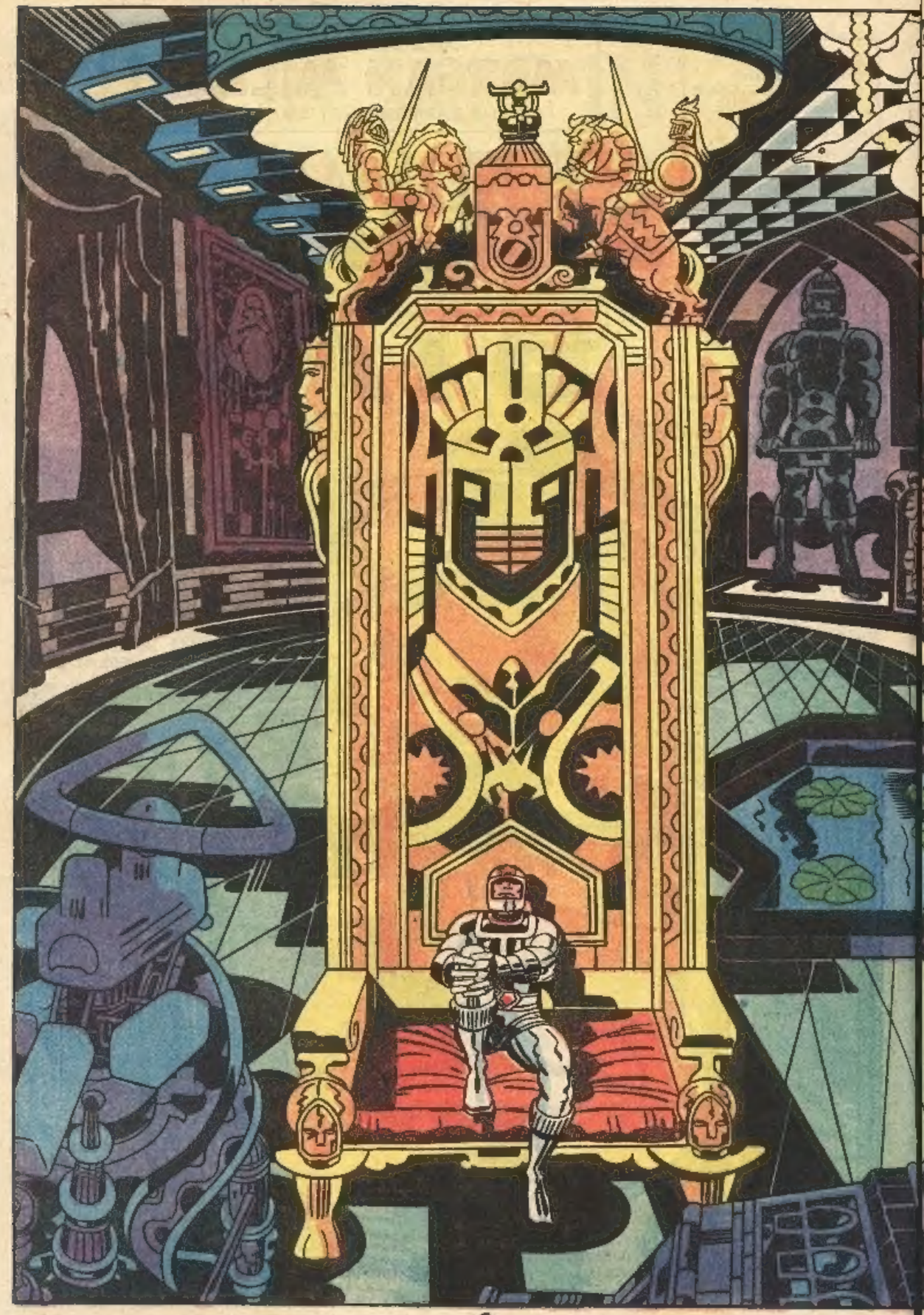
SILVER STAR

EACH NEW VISIT BRINGS A NEW SURPRISE!

I-I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE WALKED IN ON--ALL THIS!

HE CALLS IT "ENVIRONMENTAL RESHAPING," WALTER...

SOMETHING TO DO WITH ATOMIC MANIPULATION!



ATOMIC MANIPULATION! --AS SIMPLE AS THAT--! HIS KIND PLAYS WITH ATOMS LIKE WE DO WITH ERECTOR SETS...
MORGAN USES THE ATOM AS A NATURAL TOOL... OR, A THIRD HAND!

MORGAN! MORGAN! YOU TALK ABOUT THAT "THING" AS IF HE WERE STILL YOUR SON··· AS IF HE WERE ONE OF US—!!

THAT'S MORGAN MILLER: HOMO-GENETICUS! --SON OF BRADFORD MILLER: HOMO-SAPIEN!

THE MAD PART OF IT ALL IS THAT EACH TIME I COME HERE, I FEEL LIKE THE JOLLY VISITING UNCLE OF SOME AVERAGE, COZY LITTLE FAMILY!

YOU ARE-- YOU ARE—! HAS MORGAN EVER CALLED YOU WALTER HAMMER, M.D. !?

WHATEVER MORGAN IS, HE'S A GOOD BOY! --ALWAYS HAS BEEN! WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR THE "BOMB" TO TAKE "US"--

--WE MUST LEAVE BEHIND NOT ONLY CAPABLE SURVIVORS, BUT THE BEST THAT WAS IN US··· DECENCY AND COMPASSION!

I'VE SEEN TO THAT! ···THOUGH OTHERS SHUNNED THE WORK!

AND-- SPEAKING OF OTHERS--

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS YOU SO GRACIOUSLY BLESSED WITH YOUR "GENETIC PACKAGE?" THERE WERE OTHERS, WEREN'T THERE!?

I ALSO USED THE "PACKAGE" TO SAVE LIVES! SOMEHOW IT HAS THAT UNIQUE PROPERTY!

THE FACT REMAINS-- THAT YOU OPERATED ON A NUMBER OF —

WALTER!
LOOK OUT!
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, SAINT BRADFORD!

ZZSSSHH!

THAT OVERGROWN BACILLUS WAS BLASTED IN TIME!--BUT IT CHANGES NOTHING! ONE OF YOUR "OTHERS" SENT IT! HE MEANT TO KILL US—!
HOW'S THAT FOR DECENCY AND COMPASSION!?

IS HE RIGHT, MORGAN?
IT WAS DRUMM, DAD! DARIUS DRUMM! HE WANTS TO BE "KING OF THE HILL!"

DRUMM? DRUMM? WHO IN HELL IS DARIUS DRUMM!?

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN *RIGHT*, WALTER! SOMEHOW, I-I NEVER THOUGHT!

MY, MY, MY! SO THE GREAT MORALIST HAS AN IMMORAL FLAW IN HIS *OWN* PHILOSOPHY!

YES! YES! *MEN HAVE FLAWS!*

YOU MEAN, LIKE THE MEN WHO BUILT THE *"BOMB?"*

I *NEVER* VILLIFIED THEM! THEY HAD TO WIN A WAR! THEY HAD TO BREAK THE *ENERGY* DEADLOCK!

...YOU BEAT THEM ALL, *"COWBOY"* MILLER!--YOU WANTED TO SAVE THE HUMAN RACE FROM *"RADIATION DAY!"*

I-I'VE DONE IT!-- IN A WAY!--

BY REPLACING US!--WITH A NEW KIND!-- LIKE *"SILVER STAR,"* HERE!

THANKS A LOT!

DAMN!-- *DAMN-!*

I'VE *LOST* HIM, DAD! DRUMM HASN'T LEFT THIS AREA--- BUT HE HAS A WAY OF "SWITCHING OFF!"

DON'T TRY TO LOCATE HIM, SON! HE'S OLDER-- *MORE* EXPERIENCED! HE'LL--

OH, FORGET DRUMM! LUCKILY, THE "TOP DOGS" ARE NOT ASLEEP--THE *SECRET SERVICE* HAS BEEN "TRACKING" THIS SINCE YOUR BOY USED HIS *"POWERS"* IN VIET NAM!

AS COMMANDER OF THE "MASH" UNIT ASSIGNED TO MORGAN, I HAD TO REPORT --WELL--THAT'S HOW I MET *FLOYD CUSTER!*

FLOYD CUSTER--! *FLOYD CUSTER!*

--A-AND *DRUMM'S "BLACK-OUT-!!"*

FOR TEN YEARS, "HOMO GENETICUS" HAS BEEN UNDER SCRUTINY BY THE SAME EYES THAT WATCHED A *KILOTRON* BECOME A *MEGATON*...

FOR TEN YEARS, FLOYD CUSTER HAS BEEN PART OF THE *SMALL* CIRCLE OF FRIENDS WHO OCCASIONALLY PLY THE ROADS OF MONTANA TO VISIT THE MILLERS...

YUP! THE CLOSER I GET-- MY PALMS BEGIN TO *SWEAT!* IT'S *NEVER* FUN PLAYING NURSEMAID TO A GENIE...

--*AFTER* HE'S OUT OF THE BOTTLE!!

SILVER STAR, SILVER STAR, WHAT A *RARE* BIRD YOU ARE...

BECAUSE OF *YOUR* KIND, *MY* WORLD MAY END WITH A WHIMPER, INSTEAD OF A BANG...

BUT, FLOYD CUSTER, LIKE *ALL* MEN, USUALLY DIE IN WAYS THAT CONTINUALLY SURPRISE THEM!

IN GOD'S NAME--! WHAT--?

NO MATTER WHAT "DEATH" LOOKS LIKE, EACH MAN KNOWS THAT HIS LIFE IS ENDING!

HOWEVER, MEN LIKE FLOYD CUSTER ARE TRAINED TO *DEFY* DEATH! THEIR "THREAD OF SURVIVAL" IS STRONG --EVEN AT THE "SNAPPING POINT!"

SCREEEEEE!!

FLOYD CUSTER DIES NONETHELESS!-- AGAINST FORCES THAT TERRIFY AND *PUZZLE* HIM TO THE END···

THERE IS A LONE WITNESS TO THE INCIDENT···HE STARES IN STRANGE SILENCE AT THE SPOT OF MORBIDITY THAT MARS THE SWEEPING MONTANA COUNTRY-SIDE···

OH··· BEEN *WATCHING* ME, HAVE YOU?

THEN YOU KNOW THAT THE FLAME OF HATE LIES IN *FREE* DOMAIN!

··· AND THOSE NASTY, CRAWLY, SNAPPING *DEMONS* WHO BROUGHT POOR CUSTER TO HIS DOOM--WERE *MORE* THAN FANCIFUL CREATIONS!

--*LET HIM CREATE MIRACLES*--

--*WHO IS BORN TO THE TASK!!*

--WHO LEAPS AT LIFE, BOTH ANGRY AND WISE--WHO SMARTS *WITHIN* FROM MAN--AND DARES TO WREST FROM HIM, LIKE A TIGER, ALL THOSE DOMINIONS THAT LIE *WITHOUT!!*

HARSH DEEDS AND QUOTES FROM ONE WHO IS FAR LESS LIKEABLE THAN SILVER STAR! IT'S TIME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT--*DEADLY*--

DARKSEID

CREATED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY
JACK KIRBY

LETTERED AND INKED BY
MIKE ROYER

COLORED BY
JANICE COHEN

READ ON-

FLOYD CUSTER WON'T BE HERE!... HE'S BURNING IN HELL!

HAHAHAHA HAHAHAHA HAHAH!

THOSE IMAGES ARE "PROJECTIONS" FROM DRUMM! HE'S--HE'S KILLED FLOYD!!

THAT LAUGHTER! --IT'S HORRIBLE!

DRUMM IS WITHOUT PEER IN THE ART OF CRUELTY!

HE FLAUNTS IT AT US! OPENLY-- AND WANTONLY!

--LIKE-- SOME SAVAGE CHILD!

YOU'RE A LOUSE, DRUMM!--DO YOU HEAR ME? I'LL TRACK YOU DOWN, DO YOU HEAR ME?

I'LL LEARN HOW TO DO IT-- AND TRACK YOU DOWN--!

YOU WON'T JUST BURN, DRUMM!-- YOU'LL ERUPT AND BLOW LIKE A VOLCANO!

DAMN! I LIKED FLOYD CUSTER!

I LIKED HIM!

BLAAM

IT'S OVER, SON! NOW PICK UP YOUR HELMET... YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOT TO WEAR IT OR--

SURE! DO THIS!-- DO THAT! RE-MEMBER YOUR HEALTH!

BRADFORD... LET'S NOT BADGER HIM! SILVER STAR WILL BE ALL RIGHT...

I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU-- PRIVATELY!

--A SAVAGE CHILD—!? YOU CALLED DRUMM A SAVAGE CHILD!

MY OWN SON LOOKS NO OLDER NOW THAN HE DID WHILE SERVING IN VIET NAM!

THAT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT! ... "HOMO GENETICUS" DOESN'T EVEN AGE AT OUR PACE!

TRUE! BUT DRUMM KILLED A MAN TODAY! BY GOD, BRADFORD, I LIKED FLOYD CUSTER TOO!

YOUR QUESTION S--HOW DO WE KEEP "HOMO GENETICUS" IN LINE!?

WE--, I DON'T KNOW, WALTER! --I DON'T KNOW!

DARIUS DRUMM WAS THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF MY "GENETIC PACKAGE!"

YOU'VE EXPERIENCED THE TERROR OF INDECISION, WALTER ... CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW I FELT AT THAT MOMENT?

WELL-!

CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW I FEEL AT THIS MOMENT! YOU--YOU-- OBSOLETE OLD FOOL!--

--USING ME AS MAUDLIN PAP FOR YOUR OWN REGRETTABLE ACT!

STUPID OLD MECHANIC!-- BUILDER OF CLASSIC LIVES THAT TEAR UP THE ROADS OF THE BRAIN-- --LIKE VEHICLES OF PAIN!

MALT

CLASSIC PASSIONS--!

CLASSIC IRONY--!

THEN CLASSIC VENGEANCE!

--EH, DAD...?

IT WAS LIKE GENESIS!...LIKE THE "BIG BANG!"... FIRST, DARKNESS EVERYWHERE... AND SUDDENLY, *LIGHT* AND *SIGHT* ...AND *WISDOM*...! AND THAT SMUG, RUTHLESS FACE OF YOURS--*DAD!*

OURS WAS A CLASSIC VENDETTA FROM THE VERY BEGINNING... THE SUBJECT OF *"BATTERED WIVES"* WAS RARELY DISCUSSED AT THE TIME...AND THERE I WAS--ABOUT TO BE *BORN* OF ONE...

YOUR SERUM HAS DONE *WELL* FOR THIS MOST *DIFFICULT* OF WOMEN, DOCTOR MILLER!

SHE'S MUCH-- *STRONGER* NOW! MISTER DRUMM, YOU'LL SOON BE A *FATHER*...

BUT, THAT *DIDN'T* ELATE YOU, YOU BACKWOODS BIG MOUTH! YOU WERE THE GRAND MOOGAH--THE DEAN OF DISCIPLINE! *THE PROPHET OF THE "FOUNDATION FOR SELF-DENIAL!"*

NATURALLY, IT SET OFF YOUR AWESOME RHETORIC...!

AND, BEHOLD ALL ME! THIS JOINING OF THE PRESENT AND OF THE FUTURE IS BUT A *"SIGN"* THAT OUR SECT SHALL FLOURISH--

--YEA--IN THE *DARKEST* OF HOURS!

YOU HAVE A *SON*, MISTER DRUMM!

IT WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO COVER-UP MOTHER'S SO-CALLED "ACCIDENTAL" BRUISES AND FOCUS ALL ATTENTION UPON THE EMERGENCE OF A *NEW* LIFE...!

--ER--WOULD YOU LIKE TO--HOLD YOUR--SON--SIR??

SOMETHING *WRONG*, NURSE?

I-I-I-- CAN'T-- SAY-- SIR—!

NOW WHAT WAS *THAT* ALL ABOUT!?

HAHAHA—! PROGRESS--? CHANGE--? --OR PERHAPS, THE "IDES OF MARCH", O' *CAESAR*...

--UH--UH--UH--

AAAAA

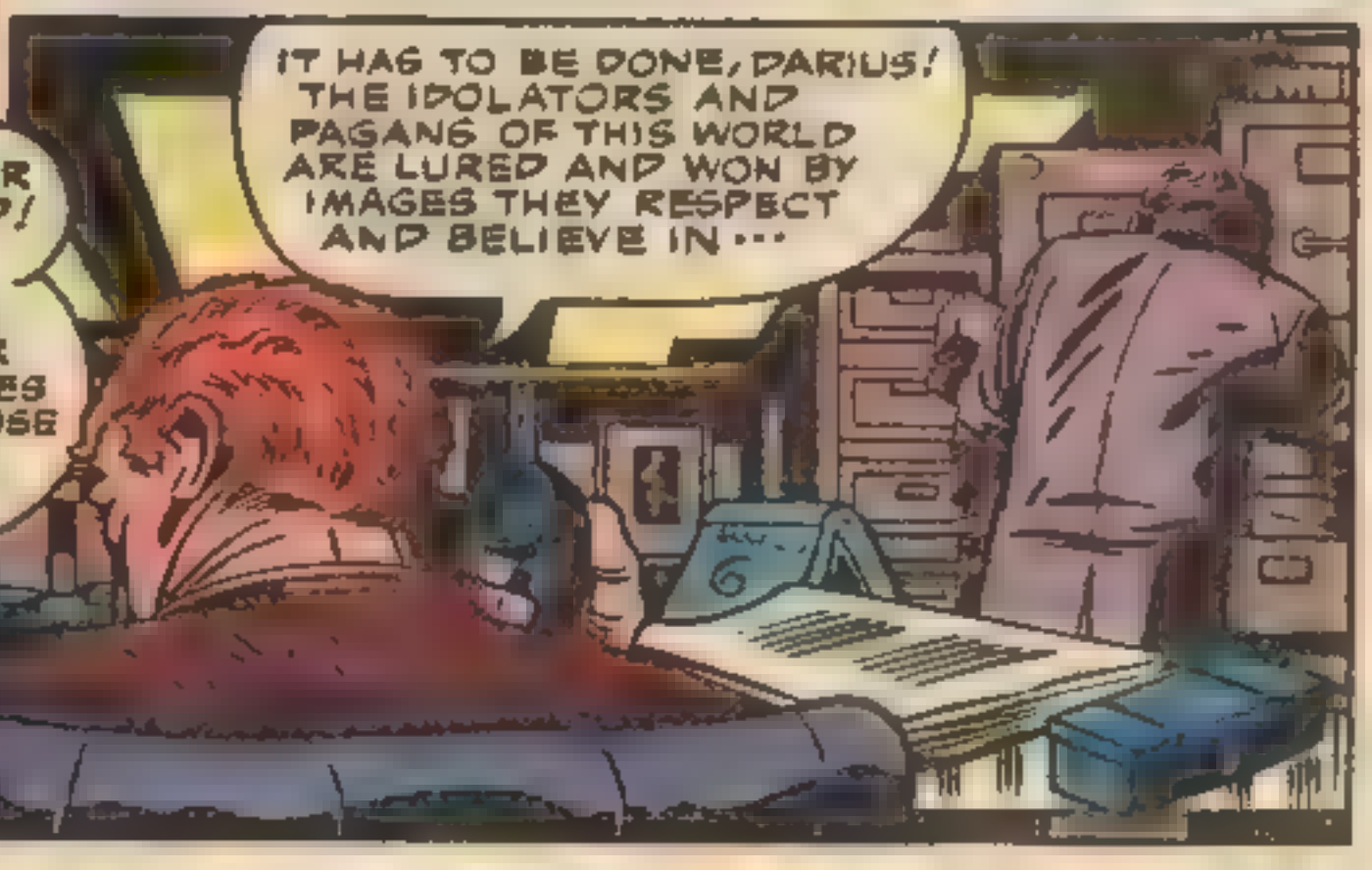
OF COURSE, I SHUT THE FOOL OFF IN "*MID-SCREAM!*"... HAHAHAHAH—! I'VE BEEN RATHER FACILE WITH A PUN SINCE *BIRTH*, ONE MIGHT SAY!

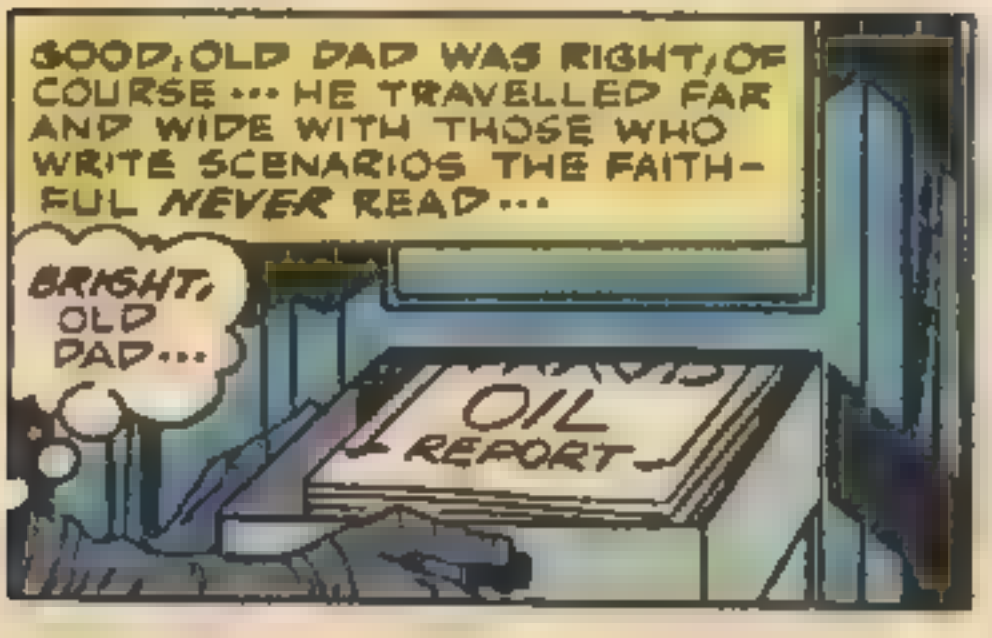
HOWEVER, I LEFT THE HOSPITAL SOON AFTER WITH MOM AND DAD.

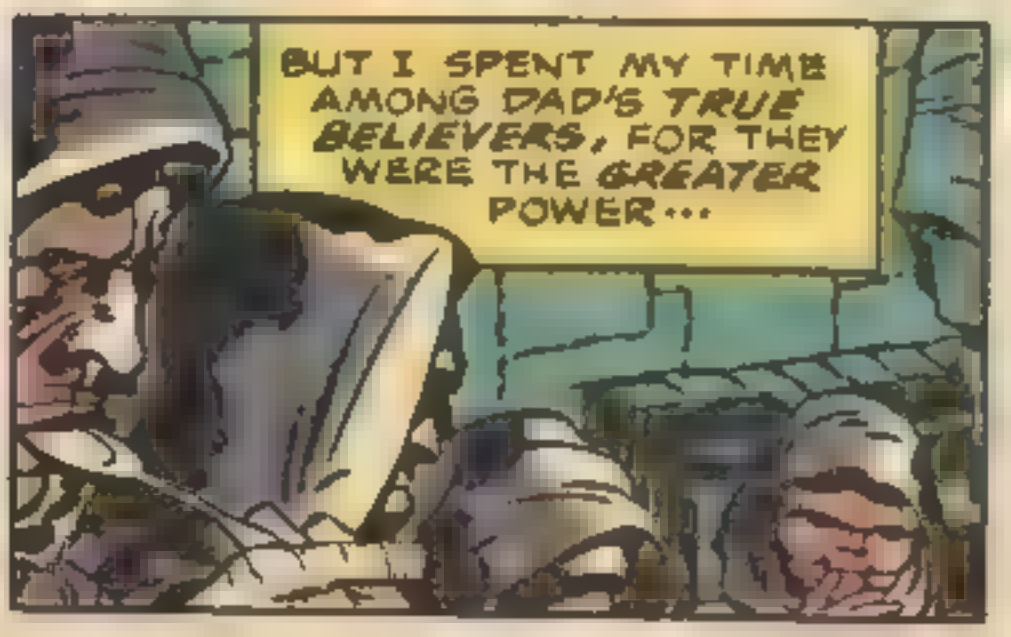
EVERYONE SEEMED *DISINTERESTED!* DOCTOR MILLER PASSED US WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELID! IT WAS RUDENESS ON MY PART, I SUPPOSE, BUT I *DIDN'T* THANK HIM FOR HIS WONDERFUL "GENETIC IMPLANT"...

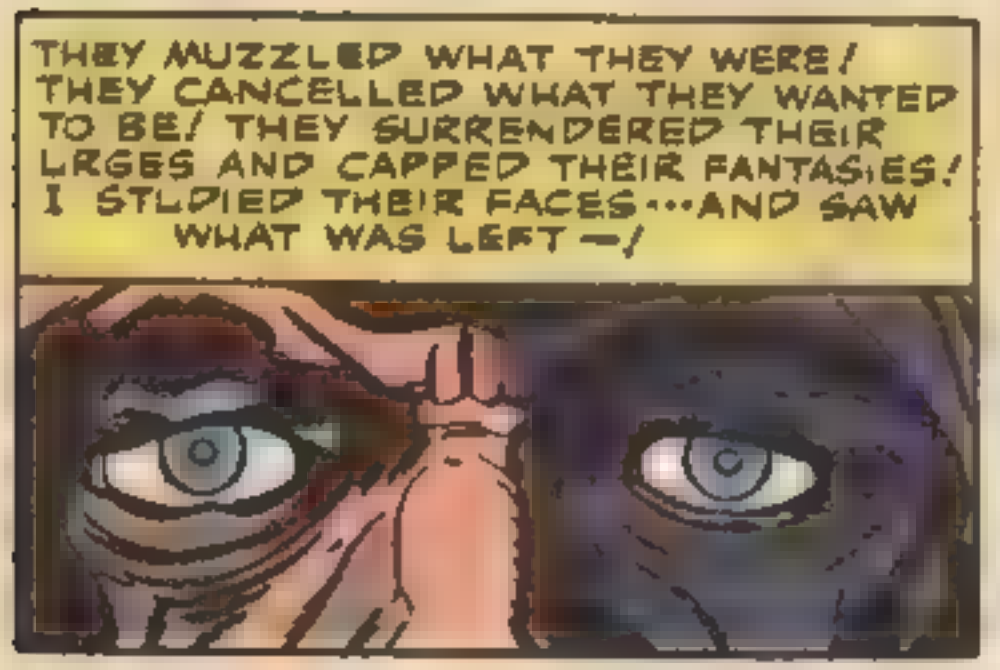
I JUST NATURALLY KNEW EVERYTHING... I JUST NATURALLY *MANIPULATED* EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE... I JUST DIDN'T WORK AT IT AS *HARD* AS DAD! HE *ROARED!* HE *BULLIED!* HE *WEPT!* HE SOARED TO EMOTIONAL HEIGHTS! --AND WITH AN *EERIE*, UNCOMMON TRANQUILITY --

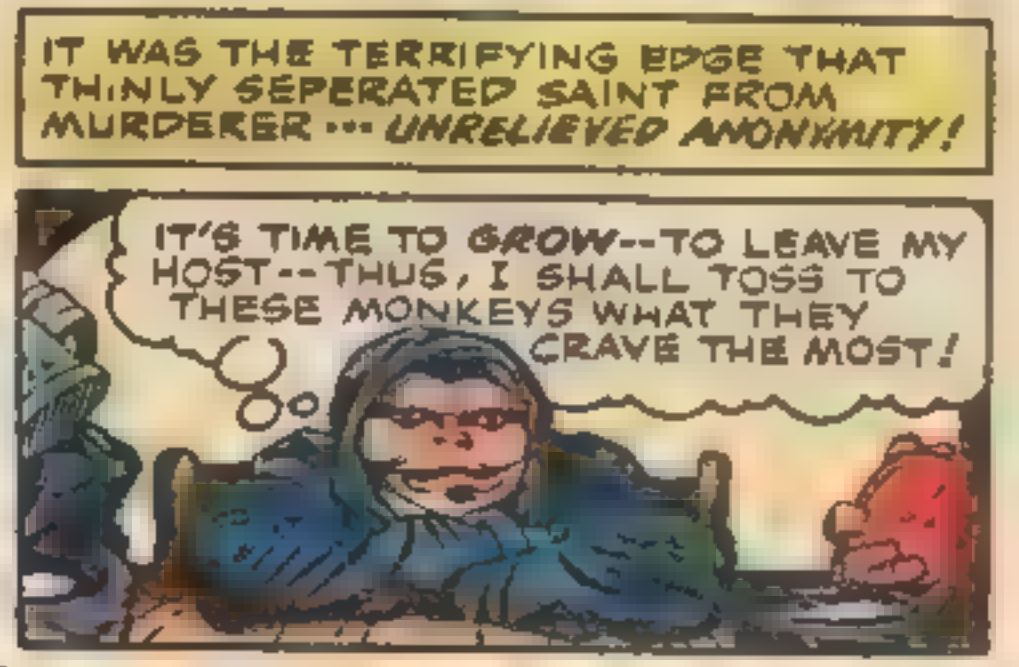
--HE SHEPHERDED THE BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF THE "*FOUNDATION FOR SELF DENIAL!*"


IT HAS TO BE DONE, DARIUS! THE IDOLATORS AND PAGANS OF THIS WORLD ARE LURED AND WON BY IMAGES THEY RESPECT AND BELIEVE IN...
POOR DAD!
IT MUST BE *HORRIBLE* TO WORK IN YOUR LAVISH OFFICES AND WEAR THOSE EXPENSIVE SUITS...


GOOD; OLD DAD WAS RIGHT; OF COURSE... HE TRAVELLED FAR AND WIDE WITH THOSE WHO WRITE SCENARIOS THE FAITHFUL *NEVER* READ...
BRIGHT; OLD DAD...
OIL REPORT




THEY MUZZLED WHAT THEY WERE! THEY CANCELLED WHAT THEY WANTED TO BE! THEY SURRENDERED THEIR LARGES AND CAPPED THEIR FANTASIES! I STUDIED THEIR FACES...AND SAW WHAT WAS LEFT --!


IT WAS THE TERRIFYING EDGE THAT THINLY SEPERATED SAINT FROM MURDERER... *UNRELIEVED ANONYMITY!*
IT'S TIME TO *GROW*--TO LEAVE MY HOST--THUS, I SHALL TOSS TO THESE MONKEYS WHAT THEY CRAVE THE MOST!

I GAVE THEM DEAR OLD DAD! ... THE BELOVED, WELL-ADJUSTED SCAPEGOAT WHO COULD SURVIVE IN *ANY* WORLD -- EXCEPT THE ONE HE CREATED FOR *THEM!* HE D ED LIKE ALL OF HIS KIND -- LIKE ALL THOSE WHO SWAY THE MIND! HE DIED VIOLENTLY! -- AND PERHAPS -- WONDERING -- WHAT IT WAS -- *HE* FORGOT -- TO LEARN ...

I CREATED *TORCHES* AND PASSED THEM TO THOSE CRAZIES, WHO ACCEPT-ED THEM LIKE CANDY! AFTER ALL, IT *WAS* THE CORRECT TOUCH ...

THAT VERY AFTERNOON I *LEFT* THE "FOUNDATION FOR SELF-DENIAL" ...

OH, IT WAS A GLORIOUS DAY! --A "FREEDOM DAY!" DAD BECAME A PERFECT SACRIFICE TO HIS "SELF DENIAL" PRINCIPLE!

MOTHER WAS "INSTITUTIONALIZED" FAR FROM ANY-ONES RAGE.

AND I-- --I WAS FREE--! FREE!!

I SKIPPED AND LAUGHED AND CREATED PLACES AND THINGS WHERE I ALONE WAS MASTER! I DECIDED ALL THAT WAS UGLY AND BEAUTIFUL-- RIGHT AND WRONG!

I WAS-- I WAS--

--I WAS NOT ALONE! THERE WERE OTHERS LIKE ME! -- RECIPIENTS OF DOC MILLER'S MIRACULOUS "GENETIC PACKAGE!"

THE OLD REPRO-BATE--! I'D FORGOTTEN TO KILL HIM TOO!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! I CAN CHANGE THINGS YET! MY WORLD OF BEAUTY AND SOLITUDE SHALL PREVAIL!

ZWOOSH!!

THEIR WORLDS--OR MINE!

WUM!

POW!

GREAT DAY IN THE MORNIN'! EVER SEE ANYTHING LIKE *THAT!*

IT'S NO STRANGER'N THAT *HOUSE* OUT THERE!

LAST TIME I SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT WAS NEAR SOME FRENCH TOWN IN '44!

SEEMS TO ME LIKE THET WAR FOLLOWED YUH CLEAN BACK TO "FUDDWAY," SAM...

WE'RE GONNA BE OLD'N SENILE AFORE WE FIND OUT ABOUT WHAT'S GOIN' ON OUT THERE, THAT'S FER SURE!

IF THE *GOVERNMENT* KNOWS, I WISH THEY'D MOVE IT ALL TO NORTH DAKOTA!

PTOW!

THERE'S NO END TO DRUMM'S ANGER! NO MATTER WHAT HIS THOUGHTS DWELL ON, HE *CAN'T* ERASE HIS *ONE* MISTAKE!

HE SURE DID A FINE JOB ON MY *CAR!*

DAD! WALTER! --A-ARE YOU TWO OKAY?

WE'VE STILL GOT A LITTLE *STEAM* LEFT, SON!

EASY, SON... REMEMBER-- WE'RE THE *UNDERDOGS* IN THIS FRACAS!

DAMN YOU, DRUMM!

HIDING BEHIND YOUR POWERS *WON'T* SAVE YOU--!

I'LL GET TO YOU!

I'LL DO IT--!

MY ACHING BONES--

WE'RE *STILL* ALIVE, THANKS TO "SILVER STAR!"

GREAT JOB *I'M* DOING! DRUMM IS OUT OF REACH!

THIS IS WHERE HE IS, DAD--*UP HERE!*--IN AN ENVIRONMENT HE'S CREATED FOR HIMSELF!

NEITHER FANTASY OR REALITY--YET REAL ENOUGH FOR HIM...

HOMO GENETICUS CREATES WHATEVER HE WISHES!

WELL HE CAN DO WHATEVER HE DAMN PLEASES--EXCEPT WIPE-OUT *WHOM* HE PLEASES!

I'M TIRED OF CREATING *FORTRESSES* THAT RESIST HIS ATTACKS! I'M TIRED OF PROTECTING THE PEOPLE I LOVE, WHO REMAIN IN *CONSTANT* DANGER...

--AND POOR LITTLE TRACY COLEMAN! --*FROZEN IN TIME AND SPACE FOR TEN YEARS!* --A CHILD --*ALIVE* IN STASIS!

KLIK!

I-I'LL *NEVER* FORGET THAT NIGHT THE COLEMAN FARM WAS BLOWN TO BITS!

IT'S NOW OR NEVER, DAD! --*OUR WORLD*-- *OR DRUMM'S!*

BUT-- *HOW* WILL YOU GET TO DRUMM?

H-HE FEARS NOTHING!

YES, HE DOES!

HE FEARS THE "OTHERS!"

HAH! YOU MUSTN'T MISS-- **THE OTHERS!** ... *COMING NEXT!!*